

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

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Saturday, June 17, 2006

Tinian Patriots

The United Filipinos Association in Tinian celebrated the Philippine Independence Day on June 11, 2006, Sunday, by having a Family Fun Day.

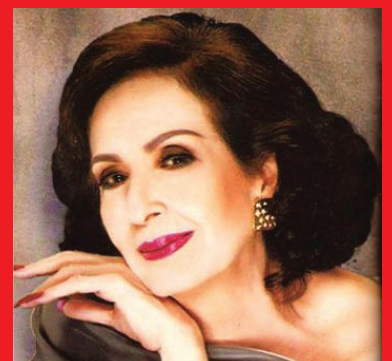
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Glorious Gloria

She is the only septuagenarian with a glamour billboard along EDSA, but actress Gloria Romero remains as self-effacing as ever.

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New POLO classes set to begin in July

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office yesterday announced the new class schedule for its free training program.

A course on building and fixing computer will begin on July 1, 2006. The weekly session will be held every Saturday, 6-9pm, at Nauru Building in Susupe.

A basic computer operations class will be offered every Sunday beginning July 2, 2006. There will be morning sessions to be held from 9am to 12nn,

and afternoon sessions to be held from 1pm to 4pm.

Classes on Peachtree accounting will also be conducted every Friday starting July 7, 2006, from 6pm to 9pm.

The courses will run for eight to nine weekends, with a maximum of 30 students per class.

Ferdie Bacani, an administrative assistant at the labor office, encouraged Filipino workers to sign up for the classes. He said

NEW Page 2

Roselle Nava loves meeting her *kababayans*

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

One thing Roselle Nava likes most about her singing career is being able to go places, including overseas, and meeting her fellow Filipinos.

"There's warm reception always. That's common among Filipino communities abroad. To me, I find it a privilege to sing and perform for them. It something that reminds them of their home country," she said.

Nava arrived on island Wednesday this week to do a concert, "An Evening under the Stars," tonight at Laolao Bay Golf Club in Kagman.

She will be performing with Star in a Million champion Chris Lawrence and the Saipan-based Akustika band.

ROSELLE Page 2



Roselle Nava will be performing tonight with Star in a Million champion Chris Lawrence and the Saipan-based Akustika band.



NMI POWER dancers perform a traditional dance during the Pistang Pinoy held on June 11 at the Susupe Civic Center.

JAYEE VALLERA

Big turnout at Pistang Pinoy

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

This year's Pistang Pinoy saw a big turnout of participants compared with last year's, with more vendors participat-

ing, and more people, including foreigners, enjoying the event, said United Filipino Organization chair Ed Reyes.

"We had a lot of people. We're quite impressed and satisfied with the turnout," said Reyes.

He said nearly 50 vendors came to participate.

Thousands of Filipinos and their families in the CNMI held the annual Pistang Pinoy at the Civic Center in Susupe in celebration of this year's 108th Philippine Independence last

Sunday, June 11.

The whole event began at 7am with a general assembly, flag-raising, and a Filipino breakfast at the Nauru building grounds.

This early morning event is **BIG Page 2**

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PINOYNEWS

Pistang Pinoy committee says thanks

The United Filipino Organization’s 6th Pistang Pinoy Organizing Committee acknowledged the help of its major sponsors—Coca-Cola, Marpac, PTI and Western Union—for helping make last Sunday’s event wildly successful.

“We would also like to thank our patrons, performers, and all

who contributed in one way or another to make the event very enjoyable and festive,” the group said.

They are Dr. Love, Danielle Beauty & Massage Parlor, HBR International, Inc., Atty. Reynaldo Yana, NBA Corp., Minda Cullen Reflexology Clinic, Tagpuan, Naked Fish, Angel

Int’l School of Dance, Club Jama, Tambayan, Godfather’s Bar, Hot City, Amelia & Ben Fejeran, Home Trade Corp. (dba Saipan Ice), Pacific Times, Saipan Tribune, Marianas Variety, CNMI Department of Public Health (Diabetes Prevention Program coordinator Tanya Camacho), NMC Nursing Club, G.I.G. Discotheque, Emon Lodge 179, CNMI Power Dance Group, Bayani Dance Troop, UB-TV Kids, Wasak Band, Basic Computer Class Batch 32, Kampil Dance Group, Grooveline Band, Ballroom & Latin Dance Group, Club Jama Angels, Evolution Band, Allen Mijares, Glen Mesina, Champ, Magic Show (Kobi), Te Kana Hau Nui Dance Group, Miki Dela Cruz, Akeiko Dela Cruz, Tanya Dela Cruz, Sound Track Band with Spice Angels, Mover Dance Group, Uncle Ben’s TV Production, KWAU Radio 100.3 FM, JC Café, Genpro Int’l Inc., Jimmy B, Jayvee Vallejera, Liberty Dones, and Aquarius Hotel.

“Our special thanks to Hon. Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Mrs. Remy Buniag, Fr. Nonoy Recai-

do, Hon. Wilfredo DL. Maximo and the Consulate General staff, Labatt. Joanne Lourdes Lavilla & Philippine Overseas Labor Office Staff, OWWA Rep. Mary Dait and the Philippine Overseas Welfare Administration staff who honored us with their presence and celebrated the occasion with us,” the group said.

“Thank you all for making the 108th Philippine Independence Day celebration very successful,” it added.

The UFO’s 6th Pistang Pinoy Organizing Committee was led by chairman Ed Reyes. Its members were Corie Borja, Wilfredo Ching, Romeo Malasarte, Leo P. Canedo, Ramon S. Awit, Nelida B. Atalig, Olivia O. Yana, Marie Paz T. Caamic, Florenda A. Miranda, Annamae G. Adaza, Veminda P. Castro, Haidee V. Eugenio, Rosemarie G. Agulto, Corazon Balita, Mary Ann Madriaga, Eduardo C. Valdoz, Dionico F. Fabula, Apollo M. Madriaga, Antonio Soriano, Joselito Espino, Marites Castillo, Jun Miday, Ronnie Doca, Gerry De Guzman, Rene Gaviola, and Enrico Cardoniga. (PR)

BIG FROM PAGE 1

usually held on June 12, but this year, the Philippine Consulate General decided to hold it on the same day as Pistang Pinoy, which officially began at 10am.

Tent sales

Pistang Pinoy was a showcase of more than 30 Filipino groups in the CNMI.

Most of them took part in the tent sales, while others just stayed in their booths, either playing games, bonding with one another, or just enjoying the activities—live band, dance and song numbers.

Commercial businesses also participated. They included Western Union, which brought in a live radio coverage of the event; PTI and SaipanCell which both offered big, big discounts on their units; Shirley’s Coffee Shop, Tony Roma’s and Capricciosa, Urban Outlet, Marpac, Coca-Cola, HBR International, and many others.

Reyes said the UFO is most thankful to various Filipino groups that performed different cultural dances during the event.

These included Tagpuan singers and Grooveline Band of Naked Fish, MAFEA band, Tambayan bands, Big Beats band, Jerry & and the Gigolos, and W&V duet.

The event, which was attended by top local and federal officials headed by Senate President and acting Gov. Joseph Mendiola, was marked with several toasts to the proclamation of independence that happened 108 years ago and to the sacrifices of Filipino heroes that led to that independence.

June 12 was also the start of the weeklong CNMI-Philippine Friendship Week.

Most in attendance, particularly members of the Filipino community, wore the traditional barong tagalog (for the men) or baro at saya (for the women).

Among the officials in attendance were Sen. Pete Reyes, Rep. Ray Yumul, Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, press secretary Charles Reyes, Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon Mafnas, Office of Insular Affairs field representative Jeff Schorr, federal ombudsman Jim Benedetto, and American Memorial Park’s Chuck Sayon, among several other officials from the public and private sector.

Maximo began the ceremony with a toast that was immediately followed by the playing of the national anthems of the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands. This was followed by a toast offered by Mendiola, then the playing of Lupang Hinirang, the Philippine’s national anthem.

This year’s Independence Day celebration’s theme is “Pagkakaisa para sa Matatag na Republika.”

NEW
FROM PAGE 1

that registration was ongoing and students were accepted on a first come, first served basis. Enrollees who have not been included in previous classes will be given top priority in new class offerings.

Individuals who complete any of the training programs receive a certificate from the Philippine Consulate General and POLO.

On June 3, 2006, over 90 workers were given certifications of graduation during a ceremony at Fiesta Resort and Spa. The ceremony co-

incided with the 2006 Philippine Migrant Workers’ Day celebration.

There were 28 workers who completed a basic Nihonggo course, and 29 others who completed a basic computer operations course.

A basic automotive troubleshooting course graduated

21 workers, and an advanced sewing course graduated 14 workers.

According to Bacani, these four courses will again be offered when the new classes finish.

A 10-session English development course, which began June 4, is still ongoing. (Agnes E. Donato)

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ROSELLE FROM PAGE 1

based Akustika band.

“Please come, *mga kababayan*. I’d love to see you there!” said a very accommodating, cheerful, and lighthearted Roselle during a media interview this week.

Roselle, 30, who finished a bachelor’s degree in marketing management from La Salle University, began singing when she was seven or eight years old, and started getting vocal training at age 10.

But as a young girl, she actually preferred dancing over belting out songs.

“My first love is dancing,” she said.

Continuous learning

Having a good voice is not enough. To succeed in singing, Roselle sees the need for continuous training.

She said she enrolled in different learning centers such as Center for Pop Music, Trumpet, and Ryan Cayabyab’s school of music.

“I also did a lot of one-on-

one vocal training. Singing is a continuous learning. It’s important that someone listens to you as well, someone to guide you,” she said.

Growing up, she said that she loved listening to Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey. Her favorites singers include Asia’s songbird Regine Velasquez, Lanie Misalucha, and Pops Fernandez.

“Pops, I love watching her on stage. She’s really a good performer. Her aura on stage is amazing. *Ang galing niya*. She interacts with her audience so well,” she said.

Roselle, who was a mainstay in Ang TV, a popular teen TV show in the ’90s, continues to be busy all-year round, doing concerts in various cities in the Philippines and abroad.

Last year, she performed in Japan, Bangkok, Australia, and Qatar. This year, Saipan is her first overseas concert trip. She said she spent the past months doing bar tours and provincial trips.

Roselle first performed a concert here on Saipan in 1995.

This year’s concert, she said, will be much different from her

performance in 1995 “because I’ve matured.”

“So many things have happened. I’ve grown up already. I look so different. I think the way I sing also is a bit mature now. At that time, I was teenybopper. Those were ‘Ang TV’ days,” she said.

Nava said she has prepared a long list of songs for Saturday. Included in her repertoire are popular songs from her six albums. These include *You, Bakit Nga Ba Mahal Kita, Wag ka nag Babalik*, and *Dahil Mahal Kita*.

Also included are revivals like *If You Remember Me* from her latest album, titled *Bare*.

She said she will also be singing Latin, a little bit of hip hop, and ballad songs.

Nava’s “In Concert II, An evening under the Stars” begins at 8 tonight but gates open at 6pm.

Free bus pickup will leave at 6pm at American Memorial area by Micro beach pavilion, Chalan Kanoa post office area, Civic Center in Susupe, and Dandan Joeten.

The concert is produced by Belle Corp. and UMDA.

Filipinos on Tinian mark Independence Day

The United Filipinos Association in Tinian, also known as UniFil, celebrated the Philippine Independence Day on June 11, 2006, Sunday, by having a Family Fun Day.

The event started around 10am and concluded around 6pm. The officers, board of directors and members of the association, together with their

families, came for the "potluck" get-together. Everyone enjoyed a good lunch with a variety of Filipino food to choose from, including chicken barbecue and pancit, not to mention the pancit palabok.

The officers prepared lots of games for adults, kids, couples, and for the whole family. There were classic party games like



The United Filipinos Association in Tinian, also known as UniFil, celebrated the Philippine Independence Day on June 11, 2006, Sunday, by having a Family Fun Day.



The Filipino community who attended the event also decided to fly the Philippine flag all throughout the day at the Tinian Fiesta Grounds, where the activity was held, in celebration of Philippine independence.

LABOR FRONT

Biased hearing officer

By **FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE**
REPORTER

Q: What should a company or an alien worker do if they believe that a certain Labor administrative hearing officer is biased or has conflict of interest in presiding over their labor case?

A: Whenever a party to a labor case believes that the administrative hearing officer should be disqualified to preside or to continue to preside in the proceedings, the party shall file a motion to recuse before that administrative hearing officer. Pursuant to the Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, the motion shall be supported by a sworn affidavit setting forth the alleged grounds for disqualification. The hearing officer shall rule upon the motion, considering only the contents of the sworn affidavit.

When the administrative hearing officer believes that is a need for him or her to disqualify to preside in a particular proceeding, he or she shall withdraw from the case. The officer shall send a notice to the Labor Secretary in which he or she shall state the reasons for such withdrawal.

In the event of disqualification or recusal of an administrative hearing officer, the Labor secretary shall refer the matter to another administrative hearing officer for further proceedings.

□ □ □

Q: What are the powers of a Labor administrative hearing officer?

A: A Labor administrative hearing officer conducts formal hearings, administer oaths and examine witnesses, and rejects the use of any individual as a translator based on the ability or trustworthiness. The administrative hearing officer can compel a party to the case to produce documents. The officer can also compel the appearance of witnesses by the issuance of subpoenas, and issue decisions and orders.

□ □ □

Q: What will happen if a person in the proceedings disobeys or resists any lawful order or process, or misbehaves during a Labor administrative hearing?

A: The Labor administrative hearing officer who is responsible for adjudication of a labor case may implement appropriate remedies.

Submit questions on labor issues to *Saipan Tribune* via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the *Saipan Tribune's* office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.

Egg Relay, London Bridge is Falling Down, Egg Catching, Give Me What I Want, Longest Line, and Newspaper Dance, among others. Gift items, including bags of school supplies, were given as prizes for the

lucky winners. Most of these prizes were donated by the association's business manager, Susan Cruz.

The Filipino community who attended the event also decided to fly the Philippine flag all

throughout the day at the Tinian Fiesta Grounds, where the activity was held, in celebration of Philippine independence.

It was indeed an afternoon full of fun. More importantly, the Filipinos on Tinian were

able to find time to join together and commemorate a very significant event in their history as a Filipino people.

The activity was led by UniFil president Corazon Cepeda. *(Rodney S. Cabarles)*

Top Pinoy acts head to Saipan in August

Send money to the Philippines through Western Union at least two times between the period of June 12 and Aug. 18, 2006 and you will have the opportunity to win tickets to see the most-awaited concert event on Saipan this August, the "Kumustahan sa Asia Pacific 2006" show.

The Aug. 27 concert will be headlined by the show-stopping act of sultry songstress Geneva Cruz, the irreverent comical music of Nanette Inventor and the timeless Pinoy classics of the Apo Hiking Society. This is a musical experience that promises to be distinctly Filipino.

To win a ticket to the concert, simply make two Western Union Money transfers to the Philippines between June 12 and Aug. 18, 2006. Present both transaction receipts at any Western Union Agent location in the Northern Marianas and you will receive your free single pass to the concert. There are 1,000 single-pass tickets that are up for grabs.

The Guam and Saipan leg of the Kumustahan sa Asia Pacific 2006 will bring the Pinoy artists to the University of Guam Fieldhouse on Aug. 26 and Hopwood High on Saipan on Aug. 27. The show is being sponsored by Western Union Financial Services Inc., a subsidiary of First Data Corp and a global leader in money transfer services.

Prior to the Guam and Saipan stops, Western Union will also have the show in Australia and



The Apo Hiking Society will be joined by the comic antics of Nanette Inventor and the sultry act of Geneva Cruz in the "Kumustahan sa Asia Pacific 2006" show.

New Zealand. These concerts will be held during June and July for the enjoyment of the Filipino communities there.

"Music and laughter are a way of life for Filipinos everywhere in the world," said Paul Crawford, regional vice president for Western Union Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands. "Watching these uniquely Filipino acts in Saipan will be the closest thing to going home. Consider it our 'Thank You' to the Filipino community for their trust and continued patronage of Western Union services."

Filipinos in Saipan will surely recognize the top acts of the Kumustahan tour. Geneva Cruz, started her career in the 1990s

as lead singer of the popular group Smokey Mountain. She soon became a successful solo artist and was chosen to represent the Philippines at the three-day Voice of Asia Song Festival in Kazakhstan where her impressive talent earned her the Grand Prize.

Singer-comedienne Nanette Inventor is an icon in the Philippine music industry with a career that has spanned more than two decades. A veteran performer on television, film, theater, or even in stand-up comedy, corporate shows, and commercial endorsements, Nanette has become synonymous with the characters she depicts including the familiar Doña Buding.

The Apo Hiking Society, which continues to weave music 33 years after they graduated from a top university in the Philippines, is a pillar of the Philippine music industry. Composed of the triumvirate of Danny Javier, Boboy Garrovillo, and Jim Paredes, the Apo Hiking Society has recorded 22 albums; hosted several television shows including their own noontime Sunday show "Sa Linggo nAPO Sila"; and launched hugely successful major solo concerts. They have performed in over 50 cities in the United States, Canada, Singapore, Indonesia, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Japan to bring Original Filipino Music to Pinoys around the world. *(PR)*

Palace announces 'mega-regions' plan

By LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
INQ7.NET

In government's continued efforts to spur growth in the country's regions and boost their economic potential, Malacañang on Thursday said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo will be formally unveiling what it called "mega-regions."

The "mega-region" concept divides the country into four multi-regional "investment and development areas," namely: North Luzon (Regions 1, 2 and Cordillera Autonomous Region, plus Aurora and Nueva Ecija); Metro Luzon (Regions 3, 4A, and the National Capital Region); Central Philippines (Regions 4-B, 5 to 8); and Mindanao (Regions 9 to 13 and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao).

The President will present the concept when she and her Cabinet meet local officials of Northern Luzon in Cauayan, Isabela on Friday, Secretary to the Cabinet Ricardo Saludo said at a briefing on the mega-regions.

At the briefing, Saludo said Arroyo will soon draft an executive order outlining the boundaries of the development areas and the mechanisms by which local government units will participate in implementing the concept.

Saludo said the new groupings will allow regional leaders and sectors to participate more intensively in planning, monitoring, and fine-tuning development programs and projects in their regions.

"The President's idea is to move toward larger groupings that will boost economic and market potentials beyond what each region can generate, with

economies of scale, synergies, and complementation that will be more attractive to investors," Saludo said.

"In addition, a larger resource base of each mega-region will be available for the provision of social services and pump-priming infrastructure, particularly the poorer provinces," he added.

Saludo said planning discussions will be held among the regional development councils executive committees, governors, and mayors of regional capital cities.

During Friday's Cabinet meeting, the National Economic and Development Authority will also make an economic and social report on the enlarged investment areas, noting key features such as land area, major industries, power-generating capacity, tourism, road network, strengths, weaknesses, demographics, and industrial facilities, Saludo said.

The Cauayan meeting is the first of four out-of-town Cabinet meetings until July to "review and revitalize investments and development blueprints from a supra-regional perspective" together with local governments, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

The next two out-of-town Cabinet meetings, in Metro Luzon and Mindanao, will be held before Arroyo leaves for Europe towards the end of the month. The last meeting, for Central Philippines, will take place upon her return to the country.

Bunye said the discussions with local officials will be used as inputs for the President's State of the Nation Address next month.

WADING THROUGH MUD

A resident wades through a river with thick pyroclastic deposits spewed by Mount Bulusan volcano in Irosin town, Sorsogon province 390 kilometers (240 miles) southeast of Manila, Philippines Thursday June 15, 2006. The volcano remains quiet Thursday but some residents are evacuated to safer grounds after it belched a plume of ash 1.5 kilometers (mile) into the night sky Tuesday which forced several schools to close and prompted officials to call emergency meetings to assess damage on agriculture and health.



Police rescue kidnap victim, kill three alleged abductors

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police rescued a businesswoman and killed three of her alleged kidnappers in a shootout during a raid on the group's hideout in a Manila suburb early Friday, the national police chief said.

Police Director General Arturo Lomibao said an anonymous caller told a special police anti-crime unit a woman fitting the victim's description was seen in a suburban Caloocan city neighborhood.

A surveillance was conducted before a rescue operation was organized, and the woman was recovered unharmed, Lomibao said.

Police said the victim was seized early Thursday near the junk yard she owned.

Oscar Calderon, head of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response unit, said the kidnappers demanded a 15 million peso (US\$285,000; €226,011) ransom.

Calderon said the caller's tip and the ensuing surveillance

confirmed the location of the kidnappers' hideout.

"When our men went in, the kidnappers fired and our men returned fire," he said, adding three suspects were killed in the gunfight.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has promised tough anti-crime measures, especially against kidnappings, which have victimized mostly wealthy Chinese-Filipinos, scaring away potential investors in the country.

'Private sector should help vs terror attacks'

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine official said Thursday that private companies in the Pacific region, especially those in the vulnerable aviation and shipping industries, should do more to help governments shoulder the cost of preventing terror attacks.

Although some companies have realized the importance of investing in anti-terrorism measures, many still rely on their governments to shoulder the burden of preventing terrorist threats, according to Benjamin Defensor, who heads the Anti-Terrorism Task Force of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

"The cooperation appears to be minimal," Defensor said.

"The private sector should strive to make its own move against terrorism outside of what the government can do, Defensor said.

Companies are reluctant to cooperate to avoid additional costs beyond what they spend for conventional security, Defensor said but he reminded the private sector of the major business losses that have been wrought by terrorism, citing the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist strikes in the United States and the nightclub bombings on Indonesia's resort island of Bali.

Defensor did not provide examples but he said the issue has come up during his discussions with security officials from the 21 member economies of the APEC, which accounts for nearly half of global trade.

3 who heckled GMA arrested

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police and elite presidential guards arrested three left-wing student protesters who heckled President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo after she inaugurated a new eye unit at a Manila hospital, police said.

Arroyo was boarding her black limousine outside the Philippine General Hospital when about two dozen student protesters unfurled streamers and began yelling, demanding her ouster, according to police and witnesses.

The students also loudly called on the government to increase education and health budgets.

Arroyo's surprised guards and police officers grabbed the streamers and tried to stop the protesters, three of whom were arrested and taken to a police station. A fourth protester wriggled loose from a policeman's grip and ran away, police said.

It was the second time in recent months that Arroyo has faced hecklers.

Last April, a left-wing student leader who was among graduating college students suddenly stood up and called for Arroyo's ouster as the president was delivering a speech at a state-run university in Cavite province near Manila. The visibly upset Arroyo paused then went on with her speech after her guards restrained the student.

Left-wing and opposition groups have demanded her resignation over vote-rigging and corruption allegations since last year. She has denied any wrongdoing and has steadfastly refused to step down.



Presidential guards and police scuffle arrest a student protester as the latter tries to display placards to catch the attention of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (unseen) during her visit to the Government-owned Philippine General Hospital to inaugurate the US \$8-million dollar Ophthalmology Center donated by Spain Thursday June 15, 2006 in Manila, Philippines.

PINOYSTYLE

Echo makes big move

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
INQUIRER

It's official.

Jericho Rosales has joined Manila Genesis "to pursue his music career," according to Angeli Pangilinan and Gina Martinez, who run the entertainment and management company.

Pangilinan said Rosales' management contract with Star Magic, ABS-CBN's talent center, expired on April 24.

Rosales joined Star Magic in 1997.

The talent center gave no comment. Rikka Dylim, Star Magic PR manager, said, "We cannot confirm the negotiations." It was earlier speculated that the actor would join his girlfriend Heart Evangelista, who signed up with Genesis last January.

Martinez insisted, "They're not a package deal."

Pangilinan added, "We didn't pirate them."

"As of today, Heart and Echo are still with ABS-CBN, the network (as talents, not contract stars)," Martinez told Inquirer Entertainment on Tuesday. "We are handling only his music career."

Rosales is promoting "Pacquiao the Movie," a co-production between FLT Films and Star Cinema, ABS-CBN's movie arm. Evangelista is hosting "Close Up to Fame 2" and is a veejay on MYX, ABS-CBN's music video channel.

The two have received other offers from the network, said Pangilinan. "I had a meeting with Cory Vidanes (senior vice president for TV production). She said they're thinking of a soap opera for them. I'm meeting with Malou Santos (Star Cinema managing director) for Heart."

According to Pangilinan, Rosales "is very grateful to ABS-CBN ... but wants to focus on his music [for now]. It's therapy for him."

Rosales and his band, Jeans, have inked a deal with EMI. Their debut album, "Loose Fit," is set for release all over Asia, Martinez said.



Gloria Romero: *I've tried everything*

By **BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.**
INQUIRER

She is the only septuagenarian with a glamour billboard along EDSA, but actress Gloria Romero remains as self-effacing as ever.

She demurs that credit for the billboard exposure goes entirely to beauty salon chain owner Ricky Reyes.

"Imagine, getting a 72-year-old woman to model for him? I was so happy and grateful to him. I can truly say that I've done everything in my career."

Including ride a motorcycle, play a drunk, a mob boss and Alzheimer's victim.

Indeed, one of her most famous movie line goes: "Don't knock it till you've tried it."

Gloria is currently enjoying a career resurgence of sorts. Again.

She is co-starring with fellow Sampaguita Pictures graduate Eddie Garcia in "I Wanna Be Happy"—the new Seiko family comedy-drama directed by Jose Javier Reyes.

Two scripts submitted to the Metro Manila Film Festival—"Habang May Pangarap" and "No Other Love"—also propose the Gloria-Eddie tandem in the lead.

It's like they're the love team to beat.

"That's only because no one our age is still around," she quips, laughing.

Seriously, she is thankful to producer Robbie Tan for the meaty role in this new movie.

"These days I get only small roles. This is the biggest I've had in a while. The story centers on the couple, but everyone in the movie has his or her moment."



Looking at her, who would think that Gloria Romero is already 72 years old? Romero is currently enjoying a career resurgence of sorts. Again.

Chemistry

She plays an oppressed housewife who abandons her controlling husband on the eve of their 50th wedding anniversary—to the consternation of their children played by Cherry Pie Picache, Joey Marquez and Diana Zubiri.

"It's an ensemble film," she points out. The chemistry between Romero and Garcia is unmis-

takeable, director Reyes agrees.

"I really made it a point to anchor the story on the old couple," Reyes says.

Garcia explains the ease between himself and Romero: "We've been working together for ages. Glo is such a lady—always pleasant, patient, professional."

Garcia was the contravida in her early Sampaguita movies like "Señorita" and "Dalagang Ilokana" in the 1950s. The latter gave Romero her first Best Actress trophy from Famas in 1954.

Three decades later, they played husband and wife in Lino Brocka's "Miguelito" and Laurice Guillen's "Kung Mahawi Man ang Ulap."

"I've also worked with him as my director," Romero says.

2nd award

"The first time I directed her was in the [Ferdinand] Marcos election movie, 'Pinagbuklod ng Langit,' in 1969," Garcia recounts.

"Eddie gave me my next acting award after a 34-year gap," Romero says, "for 'Saan Nagtatago ang Pag-Ibig' (Best Supporting Actress) in 1988."

A trouper, she has never stopped acting since she made her screen debut in 1950 as a bit player in movies like "Dugong Bughaw" and "Bernardo Carpio."

"I would stop for just two to three months at a time," she says. Not even the passing of husband Juancho Gutierrez distracted her.

"It has been eight months," she says, turning wistful. "Losing a husband is not easy. We had been separated, but we were not enemies."

Their lips say no, their PDA says yes!

By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**
INQUIRER

The photograph of Marvin Agustin's rumored girlfriend (half-Australian model) Lani Pillinger first came out here in Dollywood last week. I immediately got a text from Marvs that read, "Thanks for the write-up, my friend, but where did you get the pic of Lani?"

Yes, he seemed surprised but, good thing is, he's cool about it. After all, the more you try to hide love the more it shows! But what's this I heard that Lani is now dating model Will Devaun? It's not that she doesn't like Marvin anymore. Maybe it's his busy sked that Lani can't take. Love without time, huh? So is Will just a substitute and not a replacement for Marvin? Is Will willing to be Lani's surrogate lover?

Sweeet!

Spotted Paolo Contis and Isabel Oli soooo sweeet together at a Quezon City coffee shop way past midnight. When asked about Paolo, Isabel always says she would rather keep that to herself. But their PDA says it all. The two were playing with their laptops. I bet they are even sweeter when sitting on each other's laps!

Father's Day

Bong Revilla is marking Father's Day with "Kapag Tumibok ang Puso (Not Once But Twice)," a romance-comedy that is big in budget, production values and controversy. It was kicked off by a headline-hogging issue involving its original leading lady Gretchen Barretto, who was replaced by 2005 Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman. It features state-of-the-art special effects.

For realism, Bong hired a stunt man from Hong Kong to choreograph the fight scenes. As the movie's title suggests, how many times has Bong's heart beat truly, madly and deeply for someone? He revealed, "I would say five, including (the last?) with my wife Lani."

I teased my dashing kumpare, "Is this before or after you got married?" With his trademark chinky eyes smiling, he replied, "Siyempre before! I've stopped looking around na." But with his many charms, this certified ladies' man will always be looked at and watched.

Ai-Ai de las Alas and I fondly call each other "guru" because we both have a weakness for younger men. We figure this makes us both sort of teachers who share the wisdom of our years with our young beaus.

"Papunta pa lang ang mga bagets, nakailang balik na tayo," Ai-Ai says, only half in jest. "Buti na lang nasa-lubong nila tayo at na-gets natin ang mga Papang bagets." Her current guy is in his early 20s. Their marriage plans have been put on hold. "Naudlot 'cause it leaked sa media," she says. "And my manager, Boy Abunda, thinks it's too early in the relationship."

Any adjustment she had to make, having coming from a lesbian relationship?

"It doesn't matter what kind of relationship you're in as long as you are both happy," she insists. "With a lesbian, it's more emotionally fulfilling 'cause she knows your needs as a woman. With guys, it's more physical but that doesn't mean all sex and no love."

Take it from the Comedy Queen. Amour is fun when one Love fits all!

Sour Lemons?

A production staff member of a daily TV show got pissed after interviewing Orange and Lemons.

She lamented, "I asked a serious question about how it feels to have penetrated all markets, since their songs are very popular everywhere. I think they didn't like my question 'cause feeling nila matagal na silang sikat. When they answered, they

kept saying the word I used, 'penetrate,' in a sarcastic way. I have interviewed many bands and artists more famous than they are, and never did I feel so insulted! I walked out. They apologized, but the harm has been done. Now I believe stories I hear from industry people, that they have become swell-headed!"

Are Orange and Lemons turning out to be sour fruits of success?

Guess list

□ This singer/actress is hooked on cocaine! During a shoot for a glossy ladies mag, she arrived sweating profusely and was obviously stoned. She doesn't have too many rackets these days but she can afford such an expensive vice because she has a filthy rich married Chinese paramour. What a waste! She should get sound advice about her bad, bad vice!

Clue: She is not a Manila girl.

□ My ad agency contacts swear that she is a kleptomaniac. Recently, they say, she bought P40,000 worth of clothes from a ritzy store. But she stashed away some accessories (to match the outfits) inside her bag. Seems it's routine procedure for the mom and daughter. How long can Mother dearest cover up?

Clue: The TV host has a billboard inside a mall.

RP beauty feels she's next Miss U

By **ARMIN ADINA**
INQUIRER

It's been 33 years since Margarita Moran won the country's last Miss Universe crown. Lian Andrea Ramos said the Philippines has waited long enough.

During the Binibining Pilipinas Charities' send-off party for her on Friday, Lian—our representative to the Miss U pageant this year—said she had “this gut feel” that she'd bring home the crown.

The pageant will be held on July 23 in Los Angeles, California, where, fortunately, her entire family is based. An immense amount of support from their Ilocano relatives also awaits her there, she said.

During the Bb. Pilipinas pageant last March, the 5'7” beauty romped away with most of the special awards—Miss Photogenic, Best in Swimsuit, Miss Philippine Airlines and Mane and Tail Best Hair Award. A totally surprising feat for someone who once said

joining pageants was “not my cup of tea.”

In 2001, she joined her first national pageant—and lost. But beauty queen maker Jonas Gaffud saw immense potential in the neophyte contestant. Gaffud decided it would take only proper guidance and training to make a winner out of her.

Five years later, and reaching the maximum age limit for Binibining Pilipinas, Lian agreed to give it another shot. “Making that one decision at 25, there should be no room for regrets later,” said the political science graduate of the University of the Philippines.

Preparations

The decision proved to be a wise one, of course. Outgoing Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Gionna Cabrera, Miss Photogenic in last year's Miss U in Thailand, turned the title over to Lian.

To prepare for the big time, Lian had taken a break from her work as assistant program officer at Asia Foundation-Philippines, a non-profit organization committed to developing “a peaceful, prosperous, just, and open” Asia-Pacific region.

A team of accomplished women handled her training, as well those of her two co-winners Ana Maris Igpit, Bb. Pilipinas-World; and Denille Lou Vamonte, Bb. Pilipinas-International.

Lian said Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman's advice was: “Be confident and natural, and believe in yourselves. There will be a lot of beautiful candidates. You have to believe you are as beautiful as those other women.”

Several catwalk, makeup and wardrobe tricks were also shared by Maricar Balagtas, the first Asian to be crowned Miss Globe; Maan Bayot, winner of special awards in several international pageants; and former Miss Universe contestants Carla Balingit and Karen Agustin.

Lian also took personality development and public speaking lessons at Dale Carnegie. Yesterday she left for Colombia for additional pageant training. Colombian designer Alfredo Barraza is designing her pageant wardrobe.

She appealed to all Filipinos: “Please pray for me. I will do my best to win the title.”



Piolo on his first indie

Award-winning matinee idol Piolo Pascual plays a Huk guerrilla in “Kagat ng Dilim,” a 15-minute film written and directed by Cesar Hernandez. This is Piolo's first short film and also his first foray into independent cinema. It premiered May 31 at MyCinema in Greenbelt 3.

The audience consisted of directors, cinematographers, students, other filmmakers, advertising practitioners, artists, the entertainment press, and film enthusiasts.

“Kagat ng Dilim” is set in the 1950s. Piolo plays Ka Serafin, leader of a troop that patrols the mountains of Central Luzon. Conflict ensues when the troop members mysteriously fall one by one, all with strange bite marks on their necks.

Hernando says the story is fiction based on facts.

“Direk Cesar's offer came at the right time,” said Piolo. “I had always wanted to do something different.”

He said he had been intrigued by the script and thrilled at the opportunity to work with, aside from Hernando, director of photography Rody Lacap, film editor Jess Navarro, art director Danny Red, sound designer Erwin Romulo, and musical directors Lorrie Illustre and Malek Lopez.

“Lahat sila batikan; saan ka pa (They're the best; how could I go wrong)?” Piolo says, smiling. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Bending over backwards to sing and sparkle

By **MARINEL CRUZ**
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Singing with her top half-bent back—and rotating east to west to east—is a Pilita Corrales trademark. But not many know that Asia's Queen of Songs finds it difficult to sing when not wearing high heels.

“Bending helps me hit high notes, and high-heeled shoes help me keep my balance,” Pilita said in an interview at her home in New Manila, Quezon City. “Let's put that at three and a half inches or higher.”

The Cebuano beauty—and, everybody knows, an international celebrity—admits that her shoes are not the most comfortable to wear. “I'm willing to suffer for many hours just so I can wear them,” she said. “When it comes to shoes, comfort is only secondary for me.”

During Inquirer Entertainment's visit on Tuesday, Pilita showed to us some of the most memorable pairs in her shoe collection.

The singer also allowed us a peek into her collection of gowns, and gave us tips on how best to take care of such valuable pieces.

“My clothes no longer fit in my closet,” Pilita said. “I've had to ask our carpenter to make wooden stands to hang my gowns on. Some are in the hallway. Those I use for my TV show (“Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita,” GMA 7), I fold and put in boxes.”

Asia's Queen of Songs is scheduled to fly to Las Vegas for a show on July 15. She will be in San Diego on July 18, in San Francisco on July 20, in Sacramento on July 21.

Meanwhile, Pilita is one of the three judges in the reality talent search, “Philippine Idol,” on ABC 5.

Shoes

I bought a lot of my shoes in Las Vegas. That's where you find great show shoes. There are many things you find in Las Vegas that you can't find anywhere else in the United States—the stuff made for show girls or people who perform on stage.

I wear either very, very flat shoes or really high ones. For performing, they

have to be really, really high.

On “Lagot Ka,” I wear high heels shoes only because the boys (Benjie Paras, Joey Marquez and Richard Gomez) are all very tall. For example, if I'm wearing flats and I talk with Benjie, *nakatingala na ako*. I wear flats only when the director says my character will be coming from her bedroom or from the bathroom.

Honestly, some of the shoes I wear for shows are really uncomfortable. But since I like the shoes, I am willing to suffer.

This pair (brown high-heeled, high-cut leather boots) was given to me by a producer of my show in San Bernardino, California. When I'm in the US, I'm always in suits. She knew that I'd been looking for the perfect boots for a long time but couldn't find any in the Philippines.

Gowns

I wore this when I performed at the Carnegie Hall (shows a black velvet gown with sequins and beads). I don't remember who made this. I also have one in silver. This was provided by the producer. It's very, very heavy. I don't wear this anymore, although I'm still thinking... if I want to wear it again, I would have to change the beadwork. They're not as shiny anymore.

I still wear this (fully-beaded, royal blue stretchable gown). I first used this in my show at the Lincoln Center in New York. I bought this in the United States. I like it because it looks beautiful on stage, because of the color of the fabric and the beads.

This one (black long-sleeved velvet gown with beads and lace) I first wore in a show at the MGM Mirage in Las Vegas. It was the show I did with Carmen Soriano, also my last show with (the late singer-comedian) Bert Marcelo. Carmen and I wore the same design, Muslim-inspired. Mine was black and hers was white.

This orange crochet gown with sequins is very revealing. I have to wear a beige bathing suit and body stockings under it. It's hand-made, and doesn't need ironing. I can just roll it and put it inside my bag. I've wore this many times.

The black dress with gold embroi-



“You have to have a little bit of sparkle if you perform in big theaters, otherwise, walang effect,” says Pilita, who has sung at Carnegie Hall, MGM Mirage and Lincoln Center.

dery is by Danilo Franco. I wore this in a show at the Sydney Opera House in Australia.

The slit is at the side and goes all the way up. Pinahabaan ko pa ang slit. I wore this for a commercial recently. The producer liked it.

Velvet is great. You can use and reuse it. You can just redo the embroidery if you don't like it anymore. Hindi ka na gagastos nang malaki. Gowns are very expensive these days.

I prefer all my gowns to be stretchable. Since I'm a singer, it's important that I can breathe properly. It's also important that I can walk comfortably while on stage.

Since I wear a lot of see-through dresses, most of them have built-in camisole, or bra and shorts, so I don't need underwear. Everything is attached to the gown. This works well especially when I need to change outfits during a show. No zippers. I just pull it on.

I sweat a lot on stage. So we dry the gowns under the sun before sending them to the dry cleaner. But if a gown has been dry-cleaned two or three times, nawawala na ang luster. That's when I stop wearing them.

Before hanging them, I put my gowns inside plastic bags. This prevents the beads from snagging.

Fully beaded and see-through dresses have become my trademark. This is because I work in big theaters. You have to have a little bit of sparkle if you perform in Las Vegas or any big theater, otherwise, walang effect. If you're wearing dresses of plain fabrics, you at least have to have a big brooch.

Gowns nowadays are made of plain fabrics; but I think those are better for television.

Tops

The stuff I wear for television is really very casual. I cannot wear very revealing tops

on TV since I play mother to four big boys in the comedy series. Unless I'm asked to wear something different—like for the episode with Dingdong Dantes, when my children think I'm in love with him—I wear a sexy top with mini skirt. Most of the time, the outfit is toned-down.

Personally, the sexier, the better. I'm used to wearing tight-fitting outfits. I never wear sleeveless clothes, though. I always go for long-sleeves or elbow-length sleeves.

Pants

Even jeans—I like them stretchable. That is so I don't have a hard time sitting down and getting up.

Plain-color pants are best for long-hours of taping. Palit na lang nang palit ang blouse. I have all colors of pants to match all kinds of tops.

Bags

Gold and silver-colored bags, as well as beaded bags are the “in” thing these days. These bags were gifts from my daughter Jackie Lou.

I only have one rule in buying bags: they have to be big enough to accommodate all my things. I cannot use small ones, even when I just go to private dinners. I want to be able to put all my things in one bag.

A bag doesn't have to match my outfit. I don't really buy that many bags here. I buy my bags abroad. But if I find something that I like in some tiangge here—whether it's fake or not—I buy it.

OPINYON

Lobotomized nation

I remember again something Oliver Sachs wrote. Sachs is the famous neurologist whose writings have inspired a number of movies, including “Awakenings,” “At First Sight,” and “The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat.” His case that I remember reading about had to do with an ex-hippie who could not remember anything after a few minutes. He was living completely in the present, having no memory of things that had just happened to him.

The man was diagnosed to have suffered a trauma in his frontal lobe—possibly the result of psychotropic drugs—and was exhibiting the same symptoms as patients who had undergone lobotomy, or the removal of the frontal lobe of the brain. In the past, lobotomy had been prescribed for excessively violent criminals, which succeeded in pacifying them. But only at the equally criminal price of robbing them of their memories. The reason they became pacific was because of that—they had no past, they had no future. They had nothing to bother them, they had nothing to look forward to.

I did say in a couple of columns in the past that I thought we were a lobotomized nation, a nation that lived pretty much in the present. It’s as if we too had the frontal lobes of our brain removed, rendering us unable to remember even more recent events. We have no past and no future. We merely drift by in the present.

Last Monday offered fresh evidence of it. Interviewed by reporters after the flag-waving ceremonies in Kawit, Cavite, several kids who participated in the pageantry of Independence Day were at a loss to answer questions the reporters posed to them. One knew what the symbols in the flag represented but did not quite know what the importance of Kawit, Cavite was. Another knew June 12 marked the day when the Philippines declared its independence from Spain but did not know when that happened. Still another said they were just required to be part of the celebrations.

The mayor who appeared quite embarrassed lamented that, true enough, many Caviteños were not greatly aware of the history of Cavite. But God in heaven, this wasn’t just the history of Cavite, this was the history of the Philippines. I myself wasn’t entirely surprised by it. Many Filipinos can’t even remember the two Edsas anymore. The martial law babies can’t remember martial law, or want to know about it. And heaven knows if we still remember the War.

I suspect that even if the reporters had posed their questions to our public officials, elected and non-elected, including the non-elected holding elective office, many of them might not have been able to answer. If we have declared independence at all, it would seem to be only from our past.

Of course, like morality or the sense of right and wrong, history or the sense of continuity is bound to be dismissed in these cynical times, particularly by a cynical government, as of little practical importance to the nation. “You can’t eat sovereignty,” as the people who demanded the retention of the US bases said then. They eventually ate their words.

The consequences of being a lobotomized nation are pretty much the same as the consequences of being a lobotomized individual. You have no past, you have no future. You have nothing to bother you, you have nothing to look forward to. “Let’s move on” is today’s equivalent of “You can’t eat sovereignty.” What it really means is, let’s drift aimlessly.

I’ve repeatedly written about the importance of emphasizing History in classrooms. Its practical value is immediate and immense. The reason we have a poor sense of country is that we have a poor sense of history, if we have one at



There’s The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

all. We have no sense of belonging, we have no sense of rooted-ness, we have no sense of home. It’s not true that we are no better or worse than other Asian countries which also have a great number of their people leaving for other shores. Quite apart from the sheer difference in scale, there is the difference in attitude. Other people leave the land of their birth as a last resort, we do so as a first resort. Where is the sense in raising the quality of local education—even if that were possible in these corrupt and inflationary times—if you will only produce graduates who metamorphose into caregivers and hop on to the next plane to Canada?

for those with the eyes to see it, or the frontal lobe to remember it. It was the hiatus between Spanish colonial rule and the American one, between an old and moribund tyrannical rule and a new and resurgent one. A couple of months later, Intramuros would fall, but the Spanish would surrender not to the Philippine insurrectionary forces but to the nascent American occupational forces led by Admiral Dewey. By February the following year, the Filipinos would be waging another revolution, against what would prove to be a worse, if subtler, tyranny.

Not unlike what we’ve just gone through in the last five years or so, toppling an old and decaying tyranny only to fall under a new and far more vicious one.

‘The reason we have a poor sense of country is that we have a poor sense of history, if we have one at all. We have no sense of belonging, we have no sense of rooted-ness, we have no sense of home. It’s not true that we are no better or worse than other Asian countries which also have a great number of their people leaving for other shores.’

But history has an even more immense practical value, even it isn’t as immediate and patent as the one above—that is, you have no past, you have no present. You won’t be able to make sense of the present, having no signposts or landmarks to recognize the surroundings and know where you are—which is often just back where you started.

June 12, 1898 isn’t unlike where we are now,

Talk of the importance of history and most everyone will quote George Santayana’s famous aphorism—that those who do not read their history are bound to repeat it. That is not a blithe platitude, that is a shrill warning. Repeating history isn’t just bad karma, which will condemn us to endless reincarnations as insects.

Repeating history is, well, having Marcos and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for life.

‘Mamon’ or ‘magdalena’

Once upon a time, in a land far away called Madrid, I found myself looking at the wide array of bread and pastries displayed in a pasteleria on the chic Paseo de la Castellana. It was merienda time, I was hungry and didn’t want to gamble on some elaborate cake or pastry only to be disappointed by its unfamiliar taste. Thus, I settled for something I knew, a small fluffy cupcake we have in the Philippines. When I asked how much the “mamon” cost, I was nearly thrown out of the bakery. The lady of advanced age at the other side of the counter glared when she heard “mamon” and proceeded to ignore me. I asked a second and third time, and then with her arms in the air she said that I had just spoken an unmentionable word. I apologized and explained that in the Philippines this cake was known as “mamon,” to which she replied that in Madrid our “mamon” was known as “magdalena.”

I was to discover later that in French, the same cupcake was called a “madeleine.” It was immortalized in Marcel Proust’s “Remembrance of Things Past,” a rather lengthy novel about a man eating cake, eating “madeleine.” Surely the “Magdalena” was a culinary immigrant to the Philippines, so why did we change its name to “mamon,” a vulgar Spanish term for breasts?

“The Da Vinci Code” buffs can follow this thread and explore the

way Mary Magdalene is venerated in certain churches and towns around the country. There is a beautiful Spanish colonial church in a Laguna town called Magdalena that is famous for giving shelter to a wounded Emilio Jacinto during the Revolution. There is a marker where he rested, and it is believed that the red stains on the tile floor are traces of his blood.

In historic Kawit town in Cavite province, Mary Magdalene is venerated in the town church, hence Emilio Aguinaldo’s fighting name, the name

of his Katipunan faction is Magdalo, a name made notorious in our time by the Oakwood mutineers.

Is there some connection between Mary Magdalene, the Templars, the Masons, and the Philippine Revolution? Now, that I leave to your imagination.

Let us return to the magdalena/mamon and remember that the patron saint of bakers is not Mary Magdalene but St. Agatha, whose martyrdom was preceded by cruel and unusual punishment: Her breasts were cut off. Hence, this venerated virgin and martyr is depicted in art holding her breasts on a plate. Artists over time were very clumsy and people forgot the story and presumed she was holding bread on a platter. So St. Agatha is the patroness of bakers and bell-makers.

Magdalena/mamon does not resemble anything anatomical, but the “monay,” also known as “putok,” really looks so obscene it is surprising that the MTRCB has not given it an “X” rating on bakery shelves.

A trip to any neighborhood bakery will reveal that we make more than the staple “pan de sal.” There is a wide variety of bread that is worth three columns, but I want to digress even further and mention a trip to the north of Cebu province in the company of Annette V. Osmeña.

We stopped in the original branch of Titay’s to use the bathroom and grab some “chichiría” [snacks]. I was sur-

prised that there was a man who played an old-style harp by the door. The instrument was Filipino, and I hoped he would be playing traditional Cebuano tunes but he was busy with the theme from the movie “The Godfather.”

For many people in Manila and throughout the country, Titay’s is synonymous with “rosquillos.” These round, rose-like cookies with holes in the center look more like a baby teether today and seem to be the only product from this famous bakery founded in 1907. Yet the bakery was filled with all types of goodies, ranging from the familiar “pan de sal,” “pan de leche,” “otap” and “monay” to the unfamiliar “caycay,” “sinadlan,” “penato,” “galletas del carmen,” “galletas bato,” “masareal,” “tasaktak,” and a rather full and hard bread called “elorde,” after the late boxer Gabriel “Flash” Elorde, who happened to be a famous son of Cebu. This bread, which needs to be chewed quite well, is said to resemble Elorde’s fists both in look and quality. It is not to my liking.

We bought all of these products from Titay’s, and from what I remember the “galletas del Carmen” are flower-like

cookies that supposedly originated from the town of Carmen. The “rosquillos” come in the usual light color or in brown, and there is one type labeled “extra special” (whatever that means). The “hojaldres” come in the usual sizes -- small, medium and large -- but they also had a “jumbo” and “tiny” size.

My favorite is the “sinudlan,” also known as “baobao.” It is shaped like a turtle and made with brown sugar stuffed with “bocayo” inside. It took quite a while for me to place the taste of the crunchy outer cover, but when I could finally place it, it was similar to the American fortune cookies given out at the end of Chinese meals.

History and culture are not confined to textbooks, libraries and archives. There is a lot of both waiting to be discovered anew in our markets and bakeries (Panaderia de Molo in Iloilo province is just as rich in a history and variety). One just has to be observant because when we deal with the everyday matters, we usually see but fail to notice a lot of things.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
INQUIRER

‘History and culture are not confined to textbooks, libraries and archives. There is a lot of both waiting to be discovered anew in our markets and bakeries. One just has to be observant because when we deal with the everyday matters, we usually see but fail to notice a lot of things.’

SAMU'T SARI

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



VIN D'HONNEUR

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo, fifth from left, poses with consular officials and staff and members of the United Filipino Organization at the conclusion of the vin d'honneur hosted by the consulate on June 12 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SOUVENIR SHOT

Philippine Consul Belinda Ante, fifth from left, poses with officials and members of the United Filipino Organization and consular officials at the conclusion of the vin d'honneur hosted by the consulate on June 12 at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NEW UFO PRESIDENT

Philippine Consul General Wilfredo Maximo administers the oath for incoming United Filipino Organization president Corie S. Borja, right after the flag-raising ceremony held at the Philippine Consulate General on June 11.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



IN APPRECIATION

American Red Cross executive director John Hirsh, center, presents a plaque of appreciation to MDX on June 4, 2006. The plaque is received by Boy Ching, left, and new United Filipino Organization president Corie Borja.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



UFO INA AWARD

United Filipino Organization president Corie S. Borja presents the UFO Ina Award to past UFO president Nelida Atalig during the June 11 Pistang Pinoy at the Susupe Civic Center. At left is Ed Reyes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



UFO AMA AWARD

United Filipino Organization president Corie S. Borja presents the UFO Ama Award to UPA president Gus Loste, who received the award on behalf of his father, Nicolas Loste, during the June 11 Pistang Pinoy at the Susupe Civic Center.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PATRIOTIC MASS

Members of the United Filipino Organization pose with Fr. Ryan Jimenez after the Mass sponsored by the organization on June 10, 2006, at the Kristo Rai Church to celebrate the Philippines' Independence Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NURSING GROUP

The NMC Nursing Group led by president Lee Castro and Dina Cruz pose with United Filipino organization officers at the Philippine Consulate General on June 11.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MAN'AMKO DONATION

The Office of Aging donates mwar-mwars for the guests during the Pistang Pinoy on June 11, at the Civic Center in Susupe. UFO president Cori S. Borja received the donation on behalf of the organization and the organizing committee.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



UFO PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD

United Filipino Organization president Corie S. Borja presents the UFO Person of the Year Award to Eli Arago during the June 11 Pistang Pinoy at the Susupe Civic Center.

Maharlika
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